



H.Con.Res. 140 – Recognizing the low presence of minorities in the financial services industry and minorities and women in upper level positions of management, and expressing the sense of the Congress that active measures should be taken to increase the demographic diversity of the financial services industry.

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Con.Res. 140 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Gregory Meeks (D-NY) on May 3, 2007. It was referred to the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Education and Labor. The Committee on Financial Services approved the resolution, as amended, by voice vote on July 30, 2007.

H.Con.Res. 140 is expected to be considered on the floor on September 24, 2007.

SUMMARY

H.Con.Res. 140 states that it is the Sense of Congress that: (1) active measures should be taken by employers and educational institutions to increase the demographic diversity of the financial services industry; and (2) diversity within the financial services industry is vitally important not only to promoting innovation and creativity in the industry but to developing a more inclusive workforce for a fair and just economy. It also recognizes the challenges that minorities and women face entering into and obtaining upper level positions within the financial services industry. The resolution encourages financial institutions to partner with organizations that promote opportunities for young women and minorities as well as inner-city high schools. Additionally, H.Con.Res. 140 encourages financial institutions to appoint more minorities and women as board members.

BACKGROUND

In 2005, about 14.9 percent of the board seats at the Fortune 100 companies were held by minorities, while women comprised about 16.9 percent of Fortune 100 company board seats. According to a Government Accountability Office report, overall diversity at the management level in the financial services industry did not change substantially from 1993 to 2004.

In 2005, African Americans were approximately 9.8 percent of those employed in the financial services industry and about 7.4 percent of financial managers. Hispanics comprised about 9.7 percent of those employed in the financial services industry, just 6 percent of financial managers, and less than 2 percent of the directors of Fortune 1,000 companies in 2005. Asians represented

about 5.5 percent of the employees in the financial services industry and about 6.3 percent of all financial managers in 2004.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office has not scored this legislation.

STAFF CONTACT

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